

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 11607 071302Z

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01 AID-05

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OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 MMO-01 PER-01 DODE-00 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2493

INFO USCINCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 11607

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF MILITARY GROUPS

REF: (A) USCINCSO MESSAGE PR 012203Z DEC 76 ZFF-1; (B) SANTIAGO 9867;
(C) STATE 292128; (D) SANTIAGO 11423; (E) SANTIAGO 11504

1. THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED THE FUTURE OF MILITARY GROUPS AND MANNING LEVELS WITH CHIEF MILGP/AF SECTION COLONEL MAYFIELD ON THE LATTER'S RETURN FROM THE CONFERENCE OF AF SECTION CIEFS IN PANAMA. JUDGING FROM THE IMPRESSION RECEIVED BY COLONEL MAYFIELD IT APPEARS THAT EMBASSY MIGHT BE AMONG THE VERY FEW IN LATIN AMERICA STILL COMMITTED TO THE DESIRABILITY OF A THREE-MAN SECURITY ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION, SHOULD THE PERMITTED NUMBER BE INCREASED TO SIX. COLONEL MAYFIELD ALSO EXPLAINED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE THREE-MAN UNIT IS NOT BELIEVED LARGE ENOUGH TO HANDLE ITS MINIMUM FUNCTION, SINCE IT WOULD LACK NECESSARY SUPPORT PERSONNEL.

2. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENT ON THE RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED INCREASE INT THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE UNIT FROM THREE TO SIX, AND ITS JUDGMENT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR AMENDING THE LEGISLATION IN THIS SENSE.
POPPER

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